



U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety & Health Administration

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Safety and Health Topics

Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)

OSHA sets enforceable permissible exposure limits (PELs) to protect workers against the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. PELs are regulatory limits on the amount or concentration of a substance in the air. They may also contain a skin designation.

OSHA PELs are based on an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) exposure.

The following questions link to information relevant to permissible exposure limits (PELs).



[What OSHA standards apply?](#)

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[What are permissible exposure limits and how does OSHA establish them?](#)



[How are permissible exposure limits used to evaluate and control exposures?](#)



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